

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of monitoring and controlling a manufacturing process to enable at least one manufactured product to meet at least one specification, the method comprising the steps of:

providing at least one key process indicator (KPI) dashboard with a statistical process control (SPC) subsystem for at least one manufacturing sub-process;

automatically collecting product specific data from the manufacturing sub-process through at least one data collecting apparatus;

storing said product specific data in at least one database; wherein the product specific data is automatically collected and stored at regular time intervals;

setting at least one specification for the at least one product and the at least one manufacturing sub-process;

accessing the at least one database with the KPI dashboard;

~~utilizing the SPC subsystem to~~ setting at least one alarm for the at least one product and the at least one manufacturing sub-process; and

comparing the product specific data with the at least one alarm and/or the at least one specification and notifying at least one user in real time when the product specific data triggers the at least one alarm and/or the at least one specification.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the collecting and storing product specific data steps comprise automatically collecting and storing product specific data in the at least one database and manually collecting and storing at least one piece of second product specific data in the same at least one database.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing product identifying data and manufacturing plant specific data together in the at least one database.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of allowing the user to select at least one manufacturing sub-process through the KPI dashboard.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the automatically collecting and storing the product specific data steps comprise collecting and storing at least one measure specific to the at least one selected manufacturing sub-process that enables the manufactured product to meet the at least one specification.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the setting of the at least one specification step comprises setting at least one range of specifications for the at least one measure and the setting of the at least one alarm step comprises setting at least one range of alarms for the measure.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of entering into the at least one database a reason for the collected measure falling outside of the at least one range of alarms and/or specifications.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of entering a corrective action into the at least one database, which was taken to prevent the at least one measure from falling outside of the at least one range of alarms and/or specifications.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of generating at least one report based on the product specific data stored in the at least one database.

12. (Currently amended) A method of monitoring at least one manufacturing process for at least one manufacturing plant, the method comprising the steps of:

entering product identifying data for at least one product into a first data entry field;

entering manufacturing plant specific data into a second data entry field;

assigning at least one data collecting apparatus to at least one manufacturing sub-process that produces the at least one product;

automatically collecting first product specific data with the at least one collecting data apparatus from the at least one manufacturing sub-process; and

storing the product identifying data, the plant specific data and the first product specific data together in at least one database, wherein the first product specific data is automatically collected and stored at regular time intervals.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of manually collecting second product specific data from the at least one product and entering the data in the same at least one database that stores the product identifying data, the plant specific data and the first product specific data.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of setting at least one range of specifications for the first product specific data.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of notifying the user in real time when the first product specific data falls outside the at least one range of specifications.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of setting at least one alarm within the at least one range of specifications.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of notifying the user in real time when the first product specific data triggers the alarm.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of generating at least one report from the product identifying data, the plant specific data, the automatically collected first product specific data, and the second product specific data stored in the same at least one database.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of enabling at least one user to access the at least one database in order to track the at least one product through at least one step of the at least one manufacturing sub-process.

20. (Currently amended) A method of allowing a user to access a plant management database and configure and manipulate the data stored therein, the method comprising:

providing at least one piece of manufacturing equipment capable of producing at least one product;

collecting automatically a first product specific data from the at least one piece of manufacturing equipment;

entering manually second product specific data for the at least one product produced from the manufacturing equipment;

setting at least one range of specifications and at least one range of alarms for the at least one product;

storing the first product data, the second product specific data, the at least one range of specifications, and the at least one range of alarms together in the same at least one database, wherein the first product specific data is automatically collected and stored at regular time intervals; and

comparing the first product specific data with the second product specific data to the at least one range of alarms and/or the at least one range of specifications and notifying at least one user in real time when the first product specific data and/or the second product specific data falls outside of the at least one range of alarms and/or the at least one range of specifications.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of generating at least one report based on the first product specific data and/or the second product specific data stored in the at least one database.

26. - 28. (Canceled)